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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/117,838

08/12/1998

OLEG LLIICH EPHSTEIN

841/003

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EXAMINER

PESELEV, ELLI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte OLEG LLIICH EPHSTEIN

Application 09/117,838
Technology Center 1600

Mailed: October 22, 2009

Before TINA D. LEE, *Supervisory Paralegal Specialist*

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on October 20, 2009. A review of the application revealed that it is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the Examiner to address the following matters requiring attention prior to docketing.

APPEAL BRIEF, SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellant filed an Appeal Brief dated May 8, 2009. The Appeal Brief is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c) effective September 13, 2004.

According to 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c) (v), an Appeal Brief must include the following:

(v) *Summary Of Claimed Subject Matter.* A concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, which must refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters. While reference to page and line number of the specification requires somewhat more detail than simply summarizing the invention, it is considered important to enable the Board to more quickly determine where the claimed subject matter is described in the application. For each independent claim involved in the appeal and for each dependent claim argued separately under the provisions of 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(vii), every means plus function and step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, must be identified and the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as corresponding to each claimed function must be set forth with reference to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

The “Summary of claimed subject matter” appearing on pages 2-3 of the Appeal Brief filed May 8, 2009, is deficient because it does not separately map independent claims 17 and 23 to the specification. Correction is required.

MPEP § 1205.03 states in part:

(B) When the Office holds the brief to be defective solely due to appellant’s failure to provide a summary of the claimed subject matter as required by 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v), an entire new brief need not, and should not, be filed. Rather, a paper

providing a summary of the claimed subject matter as required by 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v) will suffice. Failure to timely respond to the Office's requirement will result in dismissal of the appeal. See MPEP § 1215.04 and § 711.02(b).

EXAMINER'S ANSWER, HEADINGS

A review of the file indicates that the Examiner's Answer filed July 1, 2009, does not comply with the guidelines provided in MPEP § 1207.02 because it does not contain all of the required heading items. Specifically, the Examiner's Answer must contain the following heading items in the following order:

- (1) *Real party in interest.*
- (2) *Related appeals and interferences.*
- (3) *Status of claims.*
- (4) *Status of amendments After Final.*
- (5) *Summary of claimed subject matter.*
- (6) *Grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.*
- (7) *Claims Appendix.*
- (8) *Evidence Relied Upon.*
- (9) *Grounds of Rejection.*
- (10) *Response to Argument.*
- (11) *Related Proceedings Appendix.*

An in-depth review of the Examiner's Answer indicates that the following sections are missing from the Examiner's Answer mailed July 1, 2009, and/or are not complete or clear in setting forth agreement or disagreement with the Appeal Brief:

- (11) *Related Proceedings Appendix.*

A substitute Examiner's Answer that is in compliance with the guidelines is required. *See also Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (MPEP) § 1207.02 (8th ed. Rev. 6, Sept 2007) for details.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner to:

- 1) hold the Appeal Brief filed May 8, 2009, defective, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(d);
- 2) notify the Appellant to submit a "paper" which corrects the Appeal Brief's Summary of Claimed Subject Matter under 37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(v);
- 3) acknowledge and consider any "paper" submitted by Appellant to correct the Appeal Brief;
- 4) vacate the Examiner's Answer mailed July 1, 2009;
- 5) generate a new Examiner's Answer in compliance with the guidelines; and
- 6) for such further action as may be appropriate.

If there are any questions pertaining to this Order, please contact the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences at 571-272-9797.

TDL/babc

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